

We Claim:

1. A method for treating an infectious disease caused by bacteria in an animal comprising administering to an animal in need of such treatment an isolated and
5 purified bacteriophage from the species *Myoviridae*.
2. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the infectious disease is caused by methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA).
- 10 3. A method as claimed in claim 2 wherein the bacteriophage is one or more of $\phi 812$, $\phi 131$, *SK311* or *U16*.
4. A method of claim 2 wherein the bacteriophage is selected from the group consisting of $\phi 812$, $\phi 131$, *SK311*, and *U16*.
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5. A method of claim 3 wherein the bacteriophage is capable of lysing about 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, or 99% of MRSA strains.
6. A method for treating an infectious disease caused by methicillin-resistant
20 *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) in an animal comprising administering to an animal in need of such treatment one or more of $\phi 812$, $\phi 131$, *SK311* or *U16*.
7. A method of claim 6 wherein the animal is administered $\phi 812$, $\phi 131$, *SK311* and *U16*.
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8. A method of reducing virulence of bacteria in a subject comprising administering to the subject an effective amount of an isolated and purified bacteriophage from the species *Myovirida*.

9. A method as claimed in claim 8 wherein the bacteria is a methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA).
10. A method as claimed in claim 8 wherein the bacteriophage is one or more
5 of $\phi 812$, $\phi 131$, *SK311* or *U16*.
11. A method of claim 8 wherein the bacteriophage is selected from the group consisting of $\phi 812$, $\phi 131$, *SK311*, and *U16*.
- 10 12. Methods for killing or inhibiting the growth of bacteria comprising contacting the bacteria with an effective amount of an isolated and purified bacteriophage from the species *Myoviridae*.
13. A method as claimed in claim 12 wherein the bacteria is a methicillin-
15 resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA).
14. A method as claimed in claim 12 wherein the bacteriophage is one or more of $\phi 812$, $\phi 131$, *SK311* or *U16*.
- 20 15. A method as claimed in claim 12 wherein the method is used to treat a food product, a substance used in making a food product, a medical instrument, skin, a surgical implant, or metallic, plastic, tile, porcelain, or glass surface.
16. A method for treating an infectious disease caused by a bacteria,
25 comprising administering to an animal in need of such treatment an antibiotic and/or chemotherapeutic agent, in combination with a bacteriophage from the species *Myoviridae*.
17. A method as claimed in claim 16 wherein the bacteriophage is one or
30 more of $\phi 812$, $\phi 131$, *SK311* or *U16*.